

## **Media Inquiry**

**Reporter:** Nancy Gaarder

**Outlet:** Omaha World Herald

**Date:** 1/14/2021

**Deadline:**

**Inquiry:** General questions regarding the AlEn plant in Mead, Neb. Reporter wants to know if EPA has conducted any sampling at the facility, and what EPA's role and authorities are.

### **EPA Response:**

The Nebraska Department of Environment and Energy (NDEE) is the lead regulatory agency for the AlEn ethanol plant in Mead, Neb. EPA Region 7's role has been to facilitate communications between NDEE and EPA technical specialists. EPA Region 7 has facilitated communication between NDEE and the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) technical specialists on questions related to potential risk from pesticide residues associated with treated seed. Questions regarding facility operations, regulatory compliance, etc., should be posed to NDEE. Additionally, NDEE publishes inspection reports and public documents on its website.

All ethanol producing facilities are subject to ~~various~~ environmental obligations, including compliance with the Clean Air Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, and Resource Conservation and Recovery Act. Additional EPA ethanol guidance is available online: [EPA R7 Ethanol Guidance](#).

USDA typically regulates treated seed and EPA works with them to provide language for seed bag tags, as appropriate, in addition to including appropriate language on the pesticide label itself and any other labeling, to address potential risks.

NDEE has conducted sampling at the facility. Records of sampling can be obtained from NDEE's website.